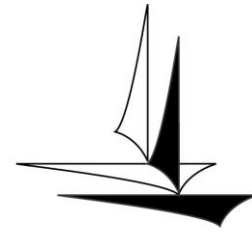


**Community Planning & Economic Development
Planning Division**
250 4th Street South, Room 300 PSC
Minneapolis, MN 55415



City of Minneapolis
*Department of Community Planning
& Economic Development - CPED*

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Planning Commission, Committee of the Whole
FROM: Andrew Frenz, Intern, with John Smoley, Ph.D., 612-673-2830
DATE: January 15, 2015
RE: The Thomas Lowry Memorial (2330 Hennepin Avenue South) Designation Study –
CPC Review and Comment
CC: Craig Taylor, Executive Director
Doug Kress, Development Services Director
Jason Wittenberg, Manager, Land Use, Design, and Preservation
Steve Poor, Zoning Administrator

Designation Study Review and Comment

Chapter 599, Heritage Preservation, of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances outlines the review process for designation studies. The City is required to submit the designation study to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the City Planning Commission (CPC) for review and comment. A copy of the draft designation study has been submitted to the Minnesota SHPO. Enclosed is a copy of the draft designation study for your review and comment.

Section 599.260 of the Heritage Preservation Regulations requires the planning director to submit all proposed designations to the City Planning Commission for review and comment on the proposal within thirty (60) days. In its review, the City Planning Commission shall consider but not be limited to the following factors:

- (1) The relationship of the proposed designation to the city's comprehensive plan.
- (2) The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area.
- (3) The consistency of the proposed designation with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the city council.

Staff anticipates this item will be on the January 15, 2015, Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion and comment.

The following memorandum analyzes the proposed designation using the three factors outlined in the section 599.260 of the ordinance.

The relationship of the proposed designation to the city's comprehensive plan: The designation of the Thomas Lowry Memorial is supported by the Parks and Open

Spaces section of the *Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*, particularly Policy 7.5, “Protect landscapes that are significant to the historic legacy of Minneapolis, the region and state, and preserve and expand artistic features in publicly accessed open spaces.” Furthermore, policy 7.5.1 states “Encourage the preservation of historic buildings, memorials, and monuments found in open spaces throughout the city.”

The Heritage Preservation section of the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan also supports the designation of the Thomas Lowry Memorial, as it promotes the designation of properties found to be significant to the history of Minneapolis under the subcontexts identified in the *Minneapolis Preservation Plan*, including street railways.

The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area: The designation should have little effect on the surrounding area. Perhaps by guaranteeing that Smith Triangle will remain a public park focused around the memorial, nearby properties will continue to benefit from this open space and public art, which could contribute to an increased density of residential and commercial development.

The consistency of the proposed designation with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the City Council: The memorial lies within the Hennepin Avenue Commercial Corridor portion of the Uptown Small Area Plan. The plan calls for a healthy mix of neighborhood and commercial serving uses in this corridor. The proposed recognition of this historically significant piece of public art in a public park will hopefully abet the success of nearby neighborhood and commercial uses by providing ancillary space for members of the public to gather before, during, and after enjoying those uses.